

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UR, IC, US
SUBJECT: US-SOVIET RELATIONS: REMARKS BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. DURING RECEPTION HOSTED LAST EVENING BY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY REIGN MINISTRY, SOVIET AMBASSADOR FARAFONOV MADE BEE-LINE FOR ME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS ENTRANCE AND ASKED QTE WHAT IS THE NEWS FROM WASHINGTON? UNQTE. I TOLD HIM OF SECRETARY'S RETURN FROM BRUSSELS AND LONDON AND SAID TRANSITION TO NEW ADMINISTRATION APPEARED TO BE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. I ALSO NOTED REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT MIGHT ANNOUNCE NEW CABINET NOMINATIONS THAT DAY, INCLUDING SECRETARY-DESIGNATE OF TREASURY.

2. FARAFONOV IMMEDIATELY GRABBED AT POSSIBLE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TREASURY NOMINATION TO SAY HOW QTE VERY GOOD UNQTE RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW BY SECRETARY SIMON ACCOMPANIED BY QTE LARGE AND IMPORTANT BUSINESS DELEGATION UNQTE HAD BEEN. FARAFONOV SAID BREZHNEV HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY QTE SERIOUSNESS UNQTE OF MISSION. TAKING MY ARM, FARAFONOV THEN SAID IT WAS QTE MOST IMPORTANT UNQTE PROGRESS AND SPIRIT DEMONSTRATED BY SIMON MISSION BE CONTINUED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION IN INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. WARMING TO HIS SUBJECT, HE ADDED: QTE THERE ARE JUST TWO OF US. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER UNQTE. WITH THAT HE RAISED HIS GLASS AND WISHED ME QTE GOOD YEAR UNQTE WHICH I
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RECIPROCATED. I THEN REPLIED TO HIS COMMENTS BY SAYING THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY

AND MINE WAS INDEED IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE POSSIBLE
IF BASED ON MUTUAL BENEFITS. FARAFONOV AGREED AND SAID
HE WOULD LIKE ME TO JOIN HIM AT LUNCH EARLY IN NEW
YEAR TO QTE TALK UNQTE. I SAID I WOULD ALWAYS BE
HAPPY TO SEE HIM AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS CHRISTMAS
CARD.

3. COMMENT: IN THE VERY FEW CONTACTS I HAVE HAD WITH
HIM, FARAFONOV HAS BEEN CORDIAL BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHAT
PROMPTEDTHE FOREGOING PITCH WHICH LASTED ABOUT TEN
MINUTES; PERHAPS HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS. IN
ANY EVENT, IN HIS HALTING BUT CLEAR ENGLISH HE CERTAINLY
SEEMED DETERMINED TO CONVEY A MESSAGE. ONLY AFTER
DOING SO DID HE PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER
HALLGRIMSSON AND TO FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON WHO
WERE ALSO PRESENT AT RECEPTION.
BLAKE

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